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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,720	09/26/2001	James A. Powell	17674 (13201US01)	9296
7590 09/10/2004				
Tyco Electronics Corporation 4550 New Linden Hill Road Suite 450 Wilmington, DE 19808-2952			EXAMINER LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT 2833	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/963,720

Applicant(s)

POWELL ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2004 and 20 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-24, 26 and 30-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-24, 26 and 30-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and Request for Continued Examination filed May 21, 2004 and July 20, 2004 in which Claims 15, 23, 26, 31, 34-35, 37, 39 and 41-42 have been amended and Claim 25 has been cancelled, have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant has not provided any description or explanation on how the weld or ultrasonic weld can be removable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 15, 23-24, 34 and 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Czaja (U.S. Patent No. 4,252,397). With regard to Claim 15, Czaja

discloses a connector device (10) comprising a first connector (10C) including a housing (body of 10C) having opposing sides (sides shown in Fig. 5) and a conductive device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50) mounted in the housing (body of 10C); and a second connector (10B) including a housing (body of 10B) having opposing sides (sides shown in Fig. 5) and a conductive device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50) mounted in the housing (body of 10B); at least one of the opposing sides (sides shown in Fig. 5) of the first connector (10C) being removably connected to one of the opposite sides of the second connector (10B), whereby the first connector (10C) is separable from the second connector (10B) such that the first connector (10C) forms an individual connector unit. See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

With regard to Claim 18, Czaja discloses the housings (bodies of 10B and 10C) being formed of a nonconductive material. See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

With regard to Claim 23, Czaja discloses the conductive device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50) in each of the housings (bodies of 10B and 10C) is a crimpable device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50) adjacent to a channel (14) defined in each of the housings (bodies of 10B and 10C). See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

With regard to Claim 24, Czaja discloses the first (10C) and second (10B) connectors further including a crimping portion (14) capable of engaging the crimping device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50). See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

With regard to Claims 34 and 39, Czaja discloses a connector assembly (10) for splicing cable with an automatic crimping tool (Column 3, Lines 32-50), the connector assembly (10) comprising: a plurality of nonconductive housings (bodies of 10B and

10C) joined to one another to form a connector stick (10), each of the housings (bodies of 10B and 10C) holding a conductive connecting device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50) and having at least one opening (14) for passage of electrical cabling (36) to the conductive connecting device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50), wherein the plurality of joined nonconductive housings (bodies of 10B and 10C) are separable from one another as the cable (2) is spliced there to form individual connector units each having cable (36) spliced thereto. The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above. See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

With regard to Claim 36, Czaja discloses the housings (bodies of 10B and 10C) comprising first and second portions (sides shown in Fig. 5) movable relative to one another. See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

With regard to Claim 37, Czaja discloses each of the conductive connecting devices (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50) comprising a crimping device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50). See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

With regard to Claim 38, Czaja discloses the housings (bodies of 10B and 10C) each comprising a channel (14) for receiving cabling (36), and a crimping device (IDC contact not shown, Column 3, Lines 32-50) proximate the channel (14). See Figs. 1-5 and 12-19.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czaja (U.S. Patent No. 4,252,397). With regard to Claims 19-22, Czaja discloses the claimed invention except for the housings formed of a polycarbonate material, a polyester material, a polypropylene material, or the first connector housing being formed of one nonconductive material and the second connector housing being formed of a second nonconductive material. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the housings of a polycarbonate material, a polyester material, a polypropylene material, or the first connector housing being formed of one nonconductive material and the second connector housing being formed of a second nonconductive material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

7. Claims 16-17, 26, 30-33, 35 and 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czaja (U.S. Patent No. 4,252,397) in view of Nielsen (U.S.

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Patent No. 4,973,263). Czaja discloses the claimed invention as shown above except for the use of ultrasonic weld to connect the first and second connectors.

Nielsen discloses the use of ultrasonic weld to connect different connector parts (36, 22). See Figs. 1-3, 6 and Column 5, Lines 56-64.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Denovich et al. and Boron et al. by using ultrasonic weld as taught in Teytaud to obtain an easy and accomplished weld between the connectors. The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15-24, 26 and 30-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

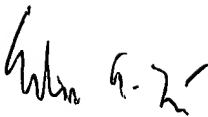
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
August 30, 2004